

## CLAIMS

[1] A PTC element comprising a sheet-like body made of a polymer PTC material, and first and second electrodes formed on a surface or surfaces of the sheet-like body, characterized in that the PTC element is provided with a space which at least partially traverses the sheet-like body in its thickness direction.

[2] The PTC element according to claim 1, wherein the space is at least partially defined by an inner wall of a through hole which extends through the sheet-like body.

[3] The PTC element according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first and the second electrodes are formed distant from each other on the same sheet surface of the sheet-like body.

[4] The PTC element according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first and the second electrodes are respectively formed on a pair of opposed sheet surfaces of the sheet-like body, so as not to overlap each other as they are seen by being projected in the thickness direction of the sheet-like body.

[5] The PTC element according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the space is located within a region surrounded by

an outer periphery of the electrode as they are seen by being projected in the thickness direction of the sheet-like body.

[6] The PTC element according to claim 5, wherein the space penetrates at least one of the electrodes.

[7] A starter circuit for a fluorescent lamp, comprising a polymer PTC element.

[8] The circuit according to claim 7, comprising the PTC element according to any of claims 1 to 6, as the polymer PTC element.